

Transitions

All writing should read smoothly and move clearly (logically) from one point to the next. Transitional or linking words like *also*, *finally*, and *later* and the repetition of key words or phrases can help make your writing smooth-reading and clear. (See pages 634–635 in *Texas Write Source* for a list of many different linking words.)



Directions

Many of the linking words have been taken out of the paragraph below. Read the paragraph and fill in each blank with a linking word or expression that helps the paragraph flow smoothly from one point to the next. Share your results.

1 When I was younger, I was always begging my parents to let
2 me cook. _____, my father said he'd teach me how to fry an egg.
3 _____, we got out all the dishes, utensils, and food—frying pan,
4 pot holder, spatula, cup, plate, fork, eggs and margarine. _____
5 accidentally smashing one egg on the floor, I managed to crack an
6 egg into the cup. _____, I heated margarine in the frying pan and
7 poured the egg into the pan. Flipping the egg over when it was done
8 on one side was hard. _____, when it was time to lift the egg out of
9 the pan, I discovered how slippery fried eggs are. _____ a few tries,
10 I did manage to slide my over-easy egg onto the plate, but there was
11 nothing easy about it. _____, it was time to eat. _____ cooking
12 was more work than I had expected, that egg tasted great!

Next Step Write a paragraph telling how you made or put something together at school or home. Include transition words as you explain each step of the process. Share your paragraph by reading it aloud to a classmate.

Paragraph-to-Paragraph Coherence

Just like transitions within a paragraph, transition words and expressions link ideas between paragraphs and create paragraph-to-paragraph coherence. Transitions help form a logical chain from one idea to another in your writing, giving it focus and allowing your reader to follow your train of thought easily.

Directions

The transition words and phrases have been removed from the paragraphs below. Read the personal essay and fill in each blank with the best correct linking word or expression. The first one is done for you.

My friends and I have talked about getting a bike trail through our town for a long time. But we've never done anything about it. One day, our social studies teacher, Mr. Adams, told us we should take the matter before the Town Council and see if they would consider it. We had no idea how to go about this.

However, Mr. Adams said he'd be willing to help us. He explained that each monthly meeting of the Town Council begins with a public forum. Citizens can speak to the council about issues that concern them. He told us we should write down our ideas and shape them into short speeches we could deliver at the Town Council meeting.